PRESS RELEASE

NHRIs from across the globe participate in Geneva-based training on the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Geneva, 13 May 2019 – Engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms is a critical component of a national human rights institution’s effort as it works to promote implementation of international human rights norms and standards at the national level. It is also one of the requirements under the United Nations Paris Principles.
To support our members in their efforts, GANHRI partners with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to deliver a blended learning training program for national human rights institutions (NHRIs) on the United Nations human rights mechanisms, to build knowledge and strengthen cooperation among NHRIs from all regions.

Representatives from 13 NHRIs from around the world – from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Peru and Thailand – participated in the online-learning component and the face-to-face training, which took place from 6 to 10 May in Geneva.

“This highly successful training course provides staff members of NHRIs from around the world a unique opportunity to better understand the Geneva-based international human rights mechanisms and learn how to harness them for their day-to-day work at home in promoting and protecting human rights” said FES Director Hubert Schillinger.

Through interactive knowledge and activity sessions, participants learned about the various UN human rights mechanisms – including the treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures. They discussed experiences and identified good practices in engaging as an NHRI with those mechanisms, to strengthen human rights on the ground.

GANHRI’s partner organisations the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the Geneva Academy, UPR Info, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva for Human Rights, the
OHCHR and independent experts contributed to inform training sessions with their experience and expertise. At GANHRI’s invitation, a representative from the OSCE ODIHR also participated as an observer.

Vladlen Stefanov, Chief of the Office’s National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms Section underlined that: “OHCHR seeks to enhance the interactions of NHRIs with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, as NHRIs compliant with the Paris Principles are key partners of the United Nations.”

“NHRIs play an important role in the UPR process. In monitoring human rights violations, reviewing legislation with a gender equality and human rights lens and educating about human rights, they support the implementation of UPR recommendations.”, added Mona M’Bikay, UPR Info’s Executive Director.

The training also provided an important learning opportunity between peers from NHRIs.

“GANHRI is delighted to bring NHRIs from all world regions together to share experiences, discuss the challenges they face, and identify together what constitutes good practice”, said GANHRI’s Geneva-based Representative Katharina Rose.

To support NHRI peer-learning and follow-up to the training, GANHRI is offering NHRI participants a new online learning platform – FUSE - that connects them with each other and provides an opportunity to stay informed, take part in discussions and ask peers and experts for advice.
"Our goal is to offer our members innovative ways for collaborative learning among peers," said Katharina Rose.

"We want to make sure that NHRI staff have easy and ongoing access to each others’ experiences, lessons and advice that will help them in their daily work domestically," she said.

The next training for NHRI on the United Nations human rights system will take place in 2020 in Geneva. Further information will be made available on the GANHRI webpage at the end of 2019.

**Online Press Briefing Detail -**

What: 2019 Training course for NHRI on the international human rights system

When: 6-10 March 2019

Who: To all National Human Rights Institutions

For more information please contact info@ghanri.org